

Update of the SCIAA Research Library Cataloging Project

By Nena Powell Rice and Matthew Haney

The core of the SCIAA Research Library, about 11,000 volumes, was the personal library of Past Director Dr. Robert L. Stephenson, who donated his library to SCIAA at the time of his retirement in 1984. Albert Goodyear and I, Nena Powell Rice, immediately began a fundraising campaign to establish the R. L. Stephenson Research Library Endowment Fund. When we reached \$45,000, we began spending the interest to fund a master's level student or professional/retired cataloger to work part time in the library's maintenance.

The SCIAA research staff is confident that the SCIAA Research Library is the most extensive archaeological library in the Southeastern United States. A few repositories own one or two copies of the monographs or site reports held in the library, but collectively, its significance is that it is the largest collection in the southeast devoted to works on North American, Southeastern, and South Carolina archaeology and anthropology and is a major resource for the professional archaeological community in the Southeastern United States. Many parts of the collection are comprised of rare, out-of-print, and difficult to access

manuscripts, journals, monographs, and primary data site reports. Of the works catalogued to date, 40% are found in fewer than 100 other libraries worldwide and 29% are found in fewer than 50 libraries worldwide. Also, the library's holdings do not duplicate many of USC Libraries' holdings. An estimated 55% of the collection is unique to SCIAA, and only 45% of works in the SCIAA collection are also found in the USC Libraries collection.

In 2010 and 2011, the SCIAA Research Library was renovated with the help of former SCIAA Director Charlie Cobb, and then student Keely Lewis diligently entered the entire collection of books, manuscripts, and journals into an Excel spreadsheet totaling 26,000+ holdings in this very unique non-circulating research library.

Since 2011, we began a Cataloguing Project of the SCIAA Research Library, which now houses over 11,000, books, manuscripts, and forms of grey literature and over 400 journals that total about 19,000+ volumes. The massive project could not have taken place without the generous donations from Drs. Edward and Dorothy Kendall, George and Betti Bell,

Jennifer and Jay Mills, and support from the Archaeological Research Trust (ART) Board. Their donations contributed to the hiring of master's level library science catalogers. Another huge contributor to the success of the cataloguing project are Dr. Tom McNaly, Director of the Thomas Cooper Library at USC, and especially Scott Phinney who suggested staffing and provided the computers, bar code materials, and listed the entire cataloged collection on the Thomas Cooper on-line catalog system. Professional librarians who worked on the catalog project during the past several years include Martha Mason, Elizabeth Hill Barrett, and especially Virginia Pierce who volunteered hundreds of hours while holding down full time jobs, now at the South Carolina State Library. Matthew Haney, a recent graduate with a master's degree in the USC Library Science Program has carried this project to near completion, and the staff at the SCIAA are very appreciative of his diligent attention. We continue to receive large book and journal donations, so the work is never ending in the day-to-day maintenance of this outstanding archaeological collection.

Some subjects that are represented in the library, which one would not expect, include historical novels, material on areas of the country like the Southwest, the Northeast, the Great Plains, and the Arctic. Also, many rare article reprints will soon be incorporated into the catalogued collection where before they had only been available in filing cabinets. With at least 500 more books and manuscripts currently owned by the library and waiting to be catalogued, this collection is unique in its breadth and depth.

If anyone is interested in contributing to the Robert L. Stephenson Library Endowment Fund, please contact Nena Powell Rice at (803) 331-3431 Cell, or nrice@sc.edu. The spendable funds from the endowment will assist a MA-Level graduate from the Library Science Program at USC in the daily maintenance of the library.



Figure 1: Matthew Haney and Nena Powell Rice in SCIAA Research Library. (Photo by Jim Legg)